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NOTICES.

The Journal of American Folk-Lore.

Here is another anthropological journal claiming public favor, and it is likely to be successful. The material is abundant. Upon this continent have been planted the intellectual seeds of Africa, Asia, Europe, to cross with and fertilize the myths and lore of the aborigines. In the editorial staff of the journal Crane and Newell will be the guardians and patrons of the immigrants; Boas and Dorsey are well qualified to represent the new world.

In the pursuit of any science the first requisite is carefully collected material. If there is to be a true science of folk-lore, therefore, we must have lore on which to build up our science. Much of this raw material must be gathered by specialists, among the Indians and foreigners; but the attractive thing about folk-lore is that a part of its resources are as common as pebbles or wild flowers.

Every reader of this journal can, if he will, do a great service to this science by gathering up carefully the lore of his daily associates.

What shall be done with this stack of material? Just what has been done in other departments of natural history. We can all remember that the same inquiry was made of the mineralogists, botanists, and zoölogists. Their thousands and thousands of specimens were anatomized, laid side by side, until their origin, evolution, generic and specific relations, and geographical distribution were known. Then the rocks, plants, skeletons, and skins were carefully packed in boxes, portfolios, or cabinets, to be referred to now and then to settle a doubtful point.

The London Folk-Lore Society have been engaged for six years in settling upon a scientific method for the study of folk-lore. They are practising definitions, nomenclature, classification. They have already invented a scheme in accordance with which abstracts of all tales and myths may be made out.

To this work the American Folk Lore Society has also committed itself and has our best wishes.

[The Journal of American Folk-Lore. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. W. W. Newell, Cambridge, General Editor.]

O. T. M.